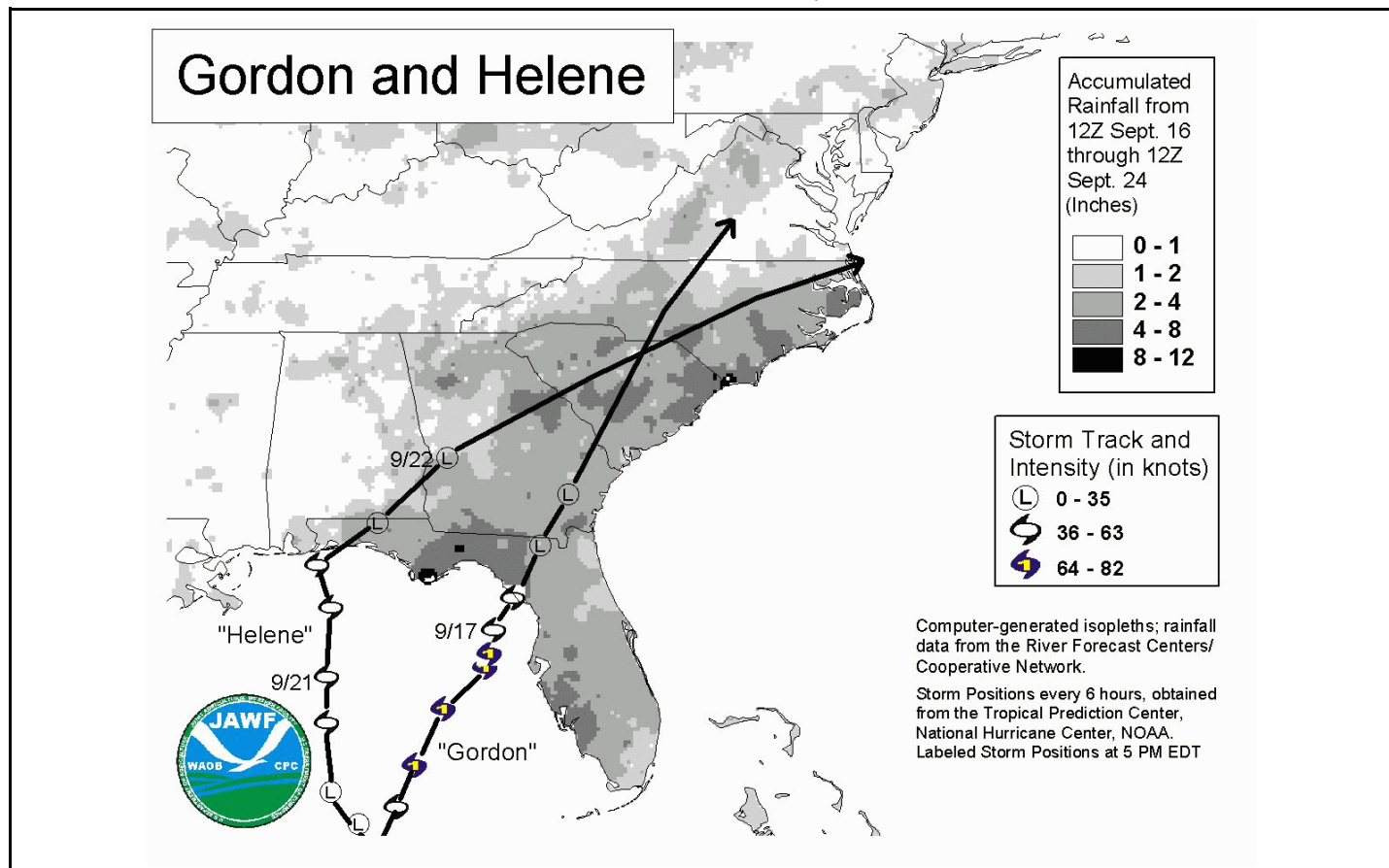


WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
National Agricultural Statistics Service
and World Agricultural Outlook Board



HIGHLIGHTS

September 17 - 23, 2000

Highlights provided by USDA/WAOB

Tropical Storm Helene trailed Tropical Storm Gordon into the **Southeast**, further easing long-term drought but disrupting fieldwork and adversely affecting cotton in the open-boll stage of development. Both storms made landfall in **Florida**, with Gordon reaching **Cedar Key**, north of **Tampa**, on the evening of September 17 and Helene crossing the coast near **Fort Walton Beach** on the morning of September 22. Weekly rainfall ranged from 4 to locally as much as 10 inches of rain inches from **western and southern Florida** to **southeastern North Carolina**. Meanwhile, an unusually strong early-season cold snap brought sub-freezing temperatures to areas as far south and

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